

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Furman et al. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner asserted that Furman et al. discloses receiving a dialed service code from a calling party and retrieving a list of parties previously called by the calling party. While Furman et al. may disclose identifying previously called parties, Applicants respectfully submit that Furman et al. does not disclose the act of retrieving a list of previously called parties upon receiving a dialed service code or system that is operative to perform this act, as recited in Claims 1, 8, and 14. 6p. 6
col. 5

As previously noted by Applicants, Furman et al. discloses two distinct systems: a training system and a dialing system. (Col. 2, lines 57-59). The training system determines the most frequently called telephone numbers for a customer and associates the numbers with names and stores the names and numbers in a database. (Col. 2, lines 59-63). The training system utilizes a customer ID number to access customer billing records to identify the previously called parties. (Col. 5, lines 13-45). However, this process is not initiated in response to the receipt of a dialed service code. In the preferred embodiment, this process is initiated automatically and is performed without any contact with the customer. (Col. 5, line 13 – col. 6, line 22). In fact, Furman et al. states that “there is no requirement that the customers be contacted prior to the time when the voice dialing service is scheduled to be offered.” (Col. 3, lines 7-10). Thus, to the extent that Furman et al. identifies previously called parties in conjunction with the preferred embodiment of the training system, Applicants respectfully submit that this action is not performed in response to the receipt of a dialed service code.

Furman et al. also discloses an alternative embodiment of a training system that also determines the most frequently called telephone numbers for a customer and associates the numbers with names and stores the names and numbers in a database. (Col. 7, line 62 – Col. 9. line 60.) This embodiment of the training system also utilizes a customer ID number to access customer billing records to automatically identify the previously called parties. (Col. 8, lines 24-32). As is the case with the preferred embodiment, the previously called parties are automatically identified without any input from a customer. (Col. 8, lines 24-61). After the previously called parties have been identified, this embodiment of the system receives spoken information from the customer through a telephone call that is initiated by the system. (Col. 9, lines 6-15). Thus, like the preferred embodiment discussed above, to the extent that this embodiment of the training system identifies previously called parties, Applicants respectfully submit that this action is not performed in response to the receipt of a dialed service code.

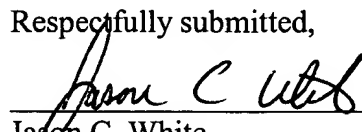
In addition, while Furman et al. discloses that the voice dialing system is activated in response to the receipt of a telephone call from the customer (Col. 6, lines 35-39 and Fig. 5), it is clear that none of the embodiments of the training system are not activated in response to any action taken by the customer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Furman et al. does not disclose retrieving a list of previously called parties upon receiving a dialed service code, or a system that is operative to perform this function, as recited in Claims 1, 8, and 14. Therefore, Claims 1, 8, and 14 and Claims 2-6, 9-13, and 15-19, which depend therefrom, are patentable over Furman et al. for at least these reasons.

Claims 5-7, 12-13, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furman et al. in view of Levine. Because Claims 5-7, 12-13, and 18-19 depend from Claims 1, 8, and 14, they are patentable for at least the reasons stated above.

With respect to Claim 7, it recites, among other things, receiving a vertical service code and a personal identification number from a calling party and, upon receiving the vertical service code and the personal identification number, retrieving a list of parties previously called by the calling party. None of the references cited by the Examiner discloses these limitations. Therefore, Claim 7 is patentable over the proposed combination for at least this reason.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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